Paul Hoch
1525 Acton St.,
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10/5/91

Dear Paul,

~~Pa~~ I write to ask if you can please provide me with a copy of something I sent you, my copy having been stolen. I explain the latter because I think you should know.

When the hardback of Lifton's Best Evidence appeared I analyzed and commented on it. Knowing your addiction to him I sent you a copy. It appeared to make no difference in your opinion of him or of the book. This is what I hope you can locate without too much trouble and any correspondence we may have had relating to it.

As you may recall, I engaged in no campaign to expose Lifton or his book. I did have a separate file on it. I also made a FOIA request of the MDW, for <u>only</u> the records it had given him. I kept them in the brown envelope in which mailed and in this separate file.

After Harry Livingstone's book appeared I heard from and then was visited by a Baltimore policeman who was working for him on the side. He seemed like a nice and thoughtful fellow and he was here often, bringing another policeman who has become a friend, a man with a master's in criminology. The first one is named Rick.

As with others, I gave Rick unsupervised access to our files and to our copier. - have no idea what records he copied, also usual.

Then Harry asked me for copies of this MDW file. I told him that Rick had borrowed it to copy, to reduce my xeroxing costs, and that I'd thought he'd returned it. The latter after I discovered that file is missing..

I am certain nobody else has expressed any interest in this file. Rick having moved, I wrote him via the friend asking him to return these materials. It happens that this was just before one of my trips to Johns Hopkins hospital and we'd suggested to the friend that perhaps he might have lunch with us there. Rick was with him.

Rick confirmed that he had borrowed the file and said he'd returned it. He described where he refiled it (not where he got it or where anyone would look for it) and drew a sketch on a napkin. He said he'd made no copies, hard to believe.

Not handling stairs well, I postponed that search until I had to go to the basement. Before then this friend showed up, got the sketch, brought the file back, I noted that it was not in the envelope in which it had been mailed, ~~made a file~~ identified it on the folder for it, and placed it where it had always been. It represented more copying than we normally do on our copier, which has a high per-copy cost. I intended taking it into town to get it done commercially. When I was able to do this I got the file and thought I'd skim it to see if anything extraneous was in it. Lo! I discovered that the entire MDW response to my request for what it had given Lifton was gone. All that remained was a separate request, never in that one envelope, for info. on the funeral.

Meanwhile Harry, who from time to time seems overly suspicious, told me that he had learned that Rick was in Lifton's pay while working for him and had given Lifton, without asking if he could, copies of Harry's work. Having liked Rick and found Harry inclined to be suspicious I discounted this.

But when I got to thinking about this more recently, when I was going to have the MDW records copied, I looked in my Best Evidence file again. What I wrote when it appeared is not there.

Now when anyone can make any copied of any records on our copier, there is no reason for this analysis to be missing. One purpose only is served by its being missing and that serves Lifton's interest only. So, I asked Harry if he had any real proof that Rick has been actually working for Lifton in secret while taking money to work for Harry. He told me some of the actual proof he has. He then asked me if I'd ever spoken to Mark Crouch, who was Lifton's source on the autopsy pictures. I hadn't. A little later Crouch phoned. We spoke quite a long time and there is no reasonable doubt that Rick was in Lifton's pay, and that he also talked freely about it. I won't go into details now other than to say that Crouch and Lifton had a long association and earlier this years it got to be too much for Crouch. He was pretty informative in this area, and credible.

What may interest you in particular is what Lifton got and could have gotten only from Rick: Harry's interview with Paul O'Connor in which he confessed that he lied under Lifton's pressure in those interviews. How did Harry learn? When Lifton sent ~~him~~ O'Connor a copy of the transcript and he phoned Harry in great indignation. Only Rick had access to it.

(In connection with O'Connor's admission of lying, which I think was indicated as inevitable in my missing memo, I suggest that with this information you reread what I am sure I suggested long ago, the very paragraph of the Sibert-O'Neill report that refers to surgery if the head. Lifton did not use the entire text, did not use any of it in facsimile. Why? Because elsewherein the same graf it reports that the body was wrapped in sheets, not a body bag, and was in the casket in which it left Dallas, not any substitute.

When Lifton has been talking about a sequel book and a coming TV documentary there is special motive in my not having what refutes his drek, the proof of his knowing lies. This is the importance of that MDW file. He had it and still lied about reality. Without doing this he'd have had no book.

What is not confirmed is that Lifton had his own way of blackmailing this policeman Rick. I have no way of knowing whether or not it is true but my belief is that Rick would not have taken any chances and would have done what Lifton demanded without confirming, which would have been difficult and awkawrd, that Lifton could carry through on his threat.

I hope all goes well with all of you. Best,

Harold